



Article Alert

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INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION, U.S. EMBASSY JAKARTA

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S.

Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.

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Earth Day 2012

MOBILIZE THE EARTH



On April 22, more than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012 and help Mobilize the Earth™. People of all nationalities and backgrounds will voice their appreciation for the planet and demand its protection.

WHAT IS EARTH DAY?

Each year, Earth Day -- April 22 -- marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land.

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate

for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment.

Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. "It was a gamble," Gaylord recalled, "but it worked."

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. With 5,000 environmental groups in a record 184 countries reaching out to hundreds of millions of people, Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. Source: <http://goo.gl/GsLGG>

EARTH DAY RESOURCES

eJournal USA

◆ Growing Up Green

This issue explores how young people are leading the way to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. Special chapter on Indonesia's Sahabat Alam, Protecting the Earth. Fifteen -year-old environmental activist Adeline Tiffanie Suwana proves one person can make a difference. Link: <http://goo.gl/GcffJ>

◆ Climate Action Goes Local

This issue examines what it means to think globally about climate change and to act locally. Link: <http://goo.gl/2wlM6>

◆ Climate Change Partnerships

This issue explains one proven and one proposed partnership structure relevant to today's climate issues. Link: <http://goo.gl/sHggv>

Additional Earth Day Links

◆ Earth Day 2012: One Act Video

<http://goo.gl/249IX>

◆ Earth Day Network

<http://www.earthday.org/>

◆ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

◆ U.S. Department of Energy: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/>

◆ PBS: Journey to Planet Earth - Plan

B: Mobilizing to Save Civilization

(Video)

<http://video.pbs.org/>

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS



PARTAI DEMOKRAT

Jika melihat sejarahnya, Partai Demokrat telah menjadi ‘rumah’ bagi berbagai macam kelompok-kelompok pendukung yang memiliki spektrum ideologi yang berbeda-beda. Partai Demokrat memperjuangkan hak-hak negara bagian, tapi juga pernah menjadi wadah bagi pemerintahan federal yang kuat dan tersentralisasi. Partai Demokrat mempunyai konstituen pemilih yang merupakan pekerja kasar, tapi juga merupakan partai orang-orang intelektual dan elit. Partai Demokrat merupakan partai kaum petani dan buruh tapi juga merupakan partai kaum imigran urban. Partai Demokrat merupakan partai bagi pihak-pihak yang ingin melepaskan diri dari bentuk negara federasi, dan juga merupakan partai penganjur Gerakan Hak-Hak Sipil.

Partai Demokrat dibentuk pada 1790-an oleh Thomas Jefferson dan James Madison sebagai oposisi terhadap Alexander Hamilton dan Kelompok Federalis. Mereka yang bergabung pada awal koalisi lebih dikenal sebagai Republikan atau golongan Republik-Demokrat (pendukung Partai Republik modern sekarang ini juga disebut Republikan, tetapi keduanya tidak saling berhubungan).

Partai Demokrat pada awalnya didirikan atas dasar falsafah bahwa kekuasaan dari pemerintah federal harus dibatasi. Pendiri Partai Demokrat sangat mendukung hak-hak individual negara bagian dan menolak sistem pemerintahan tersentralisasi sebagai alama dianut oleh sebagian besar masyarakat Amerika Serikat pada saat itu. Mereka juga sangat menganjurkan demokrasi dan gerakan yang menganut paham liberal dan kebebasan.

Selama kurun 1800-1824, Thomas Jefferson dan James Monroe mendapatkan kepercayaan dari rakyat Amerika untuk memimpin sebagai Presiden. Dukungan terhadap Republik-Demokrat mulai terpecah ketika pada tahun 1824, Andrew Jackson yang mengalahkan John Quincy Adams mulai melakukan mobilisasi terhadap pendukungnya. Mobilisasi yang dilakukan oleh Andrew Jackson inilah yang kelak menjadi cikal bakal Partai Demokrat seperti yang kita kenal sekarang ini dan membuatnya terpilih menjadi Presiden Partai Demokrat pertama pada Pemilihan 1828.

Era 1828-1858 menandai era persaingan antara Partai Demokrat dan Partai Whigs, dimana Partai Demokrat merupakan partai mayoritas. Pada masa inilah aturan-aturan partai politik modern terbentuk : konvensi nominasi ditemukan, struktur organisasi kepartai yang modern dibakukan, tingkatan-tingkatan lokal sampai dengan komite nasional diadakan, dan lain-lain.

Pada periode 1828 – 1860, Partai Demokrat mendominasi panggung politik AS dengan hanya kehilangan 2 masa kepresidenan (1840 & 1848). Pada 1860, karena terpecahnya suara partai menjadi dua dan masing-masing mengusung capres sendiri (kubu selatan dan kubu utara berbeda pandangan mengenai isu perbedaan pada saat itu), menyebabkan mereka kehilangan suara mayoritas dan memberikan kesempatan kepada Abraham Lincoln untuk menduduki kursi kepresidenan. Abraham Lincoln merupakan capres dari Partai Republik, partai yang relatif baru pada saat itu. Masa ini juga menjadi titik balik perpolitikan di AS, yang mencanangkan sistem bipartisan yang kita kenal sampai dengan saat ini.

Tahun-tahun setelahnya merupakan tahun yang kurang menguntungkan bagi Partai Demokrat.

Hingga akhirnya kemelut yang dialami oleh Partai Republik pada masa pemilihan 1912 memberikan kesempatan pada Woodrow Wilson dari Demokrat untuk menduduki kursi kepresidenan. Pada masa pemerintahan Wilson, dia menetapkan sistem pajak pendapatan progresif, mendirikan *Federal Trade Commission*, dan membentuk *Federal Reserve* (selanjutnya lebih dikenal Bank Sentral AS yang mengatur kebijakan-kebijakan moneter AS). Wilson kembali terpilih pada 1916, tapi karena dia menyeret AS kedalam Perang Dunia I pada masa pemerintahannya, popularitas Demokrat menurun sehingga dalam 3 pilpres berikutnya (1920, 1924, 1928). Pada 1929 AS jatuh kedalam resesi ekonomi (resesi global yang dikenal dengan nama *Great Depression*). Franklin D Roosevelt, capres dari Partai Demokrat memenangkan kursi kepresidenan dengan mengusung tema *New Deal*. Paket kebijakan FDR ini menandai evolusi pandangan politik Demokrat dari menanam paham desentralisasi menjadi paham perlunya campur tangan pemerintah dalam menciptakan kondisi ketatanegaraan yang kondusif. Paket ini dianggap berhasil membawa AS keluar dari resesi dan meningkatkan popularitas FDR sedemikian rupa sehingga FDR merupakan satu-satunya Presiden AS yang mampu menjabat lebih dari 2 periode. FDR meninggal dunia tidak lama setelah dia terpilih jadi Presiden AS untuk yang keempat kalinya. FDR digantikan wakilnya, Harry S Truman, yang mengeluarkan kebijakan menyokong persamaan hak bagi kulit hitam. Fase FDR ini menandai fase titik balik dominasi Partai Demokrat atas panggung perpolitikan AS hingga tahun 1990an. Era 1990-an hingga saat ini, Partai Demokrat dan Partai Republik silih berganti mengisi peta politik AS, dengan presiden saat ini, Barack Obama, berasal dari Partai Demokrat.

Sumber: Encyclopedia Britannica Online (2010), Encyclopedia of American Political Parties & Elections (2010) dan IIP Digital (iipdigital.state.gov)

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

1. Gerlak, Andrea K. and Wilder, Margaret. EXPLORING THE TEXTURED LANDSCAPE OF WATER INSECURITY AND THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER (Environmental Magazine, Mar/Apr2012, Vol. 54 Issue 2)

Globally, access to water is not smooth and universal, but is textured and uneven across the spatial and socioeconomic landscape. The map of access to clean water and sanitation is highly variegated by region, country, urban/rural characteristics, gender, age, class, and ethnicity, leading to a complex sociospatial “waterscape.” The gap in water use is stark: Developed nations use an average of 400–500 liters a day per person, while

in developing countries the volume is just 20 liters. Worldwide, 1.1 billion people practice open defecation and millions more share inadequate sanitation facilities. Full text is available <http://goo.gl/OL85Y>

2. Marche, Stephen. IS FACEBOOK MAKING US LONELY? (The Atlantic Magazine, May 2012)

Social media from Facebook to Twitter have made us more densely networked than ever. Yet for all this connectivity, new research suggests that we have never been lonelier (or more narcissistic) and that this loneliness is making us mentally and physically ill. A report on what the epidemic of loneliness is doing to our souls and our society. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/jpT2L>

3. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS COMMEMORATE EARTH DAY. IIP Digital.gov, April 23, 2012

Peace Corps volunteers worldwide commemorated Earth Day by teaching people in their local communities to become more environmentally conscious and protect the local ecosystem. Read more <http://goo.gl/3sX2a>

ECONOMIC & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

4. CLINTON IN CONVERSATION ON "AMERICA AND THE WORLD". IIP Digital.gov, April 23, 2012

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton remarks at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and discussion "America and the World" with Maxwell School Dean James Steinberg. Her first challenges on coming into the office. She is probably as well qualified as anybody to be Secretary of State. She has been the first lady. She has been a senator. But what surprised her? What were the biggest challenges her first faced coming into office? Read more: <http://goo.gl/DFDVBY>

5. FACT SHEET ON U.S. STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO ATROCITIES. IIP Digital.gov, April 23, 2012

Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States. Our security is affected when masses of civilians are slaughtered, refugees flow across borders, and murderers wreak havoc on regional stability and livelihoods. America's reputation suffers, and our ability to bring about change is constrained, when we are perceived as idle in the face of mass atrocities and genocide. Unfortunately, history has taught us that our pursuit of a world where states do not systematically slaughter civilians will not come to fruition without concerted and

coordinated effort. -Presidential Study Directive 10, August 4, 2011. Read more: <http://goo.gl/iNuQk>

6. Isaacson, Walter. THE REAL LEADERSHIP LESSONS OF STEVE JOBS (Harvard Business Review, April 2012)

As Barack Obama contends for a second term in office, two conflicting narratives of his presidency have emerged. Is he a skillful political player and policy visionary—a chess master who always sees several moves ahead of his opponents. Or is he politically clumsy and out of his depth—a pawn overwhelmed by events, at the mercy of a second-rate staff and of the Republicans? Here, a longtime analyst of the presidency takes the measure of our 44th president, with a view to history. Currently available online at <http://goo.gl/B3dcM>

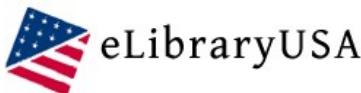
7. Kupchan, Charles A. A STILL-STRONG ALLIANCE (Policy Review, March 30, 2012).

The Atlantic alliance has demonstrated remarkable resilience over the past two decades. Most alliances do not outlast the dissolution of the threat that brought them into being. NATO, however, not only survived the collapse of the Soviet Union but went on to welcome a host of new members from Central Europe and to undertake military missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan,

and Libya. As the Cold War came to a close, few observers could have predicted that NATO, twenty years later, would be in the midst of a major mission in Afghanistan while simultaneously carrying out a successful air campaign to topple the Libyan government. Currently available at <http://goo.gl/FLWZC>

8. Zenko, Micah and Cohen, Michael A. CLEAR AND PRESENT SAFETY (Foreign Affairs; Mar/Apr 2012, Vol. 91 Issue 2.)

U.S. officials and national security experts chronically exaggerate foreign threats, suggesting that the world is scarier and more dangerous than ever. But that is just not true. From the U.S. perspective, at least, the world today is remarkably secure, and Washington needs a foreign policy that reflects that reality. Full text is available via IRC eLibraryUSA Database.



eLibraryUSA offers access to around 30 authoritative databases that covers broad range of resources about learning English, American history and culture, health, business, and more. To get access and training on eLibraryUSA database, please email ircjakarta@state.gov.

U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

9. Hopkins, Katy 3 SURPRISES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES (usnews.com, April 2012)

Coming to the United States for college or graduate school can introduce cultural differences that even the most prepared students might not expect. From classroom etiquette to campus life, studying at a U.S. school can be quite a different experience from learning in another country. At a meeting of Fulbright scholars last month, U.S. News caught up with four international students in their first years of graduate study at universities across the United States. Available online at <http://goo.gl/FtAEh>

10. Marshall, Alex ENCOURAGING BIKING, WALKING IN LARGE U.S. METRO AREAS (Governing, April 2012)

Alex Marshall is the transportation columnist and a Senior Fellow at The Regional Plan Association in New York City write on what can cities do to help get people out of their cars and onto their feet? We can't change the past, but for the present and the future, it would help if government

built roads more strategically and less indiscriminately, and put more money into sidewalks, buses, bike paths and streetcars. If these policies are pursued consistently, our cities change. We can see this by looking at the effect of transportation spending in the past. Available online <http://goo.gl/rxXGF>

11. Spano, Susan and Shen, Aviva THE 20 BEST SMALL TOWNS IN AMERICA (Smithsonian.com, May 2012)

From the Berkshires to the Cascades, we've crunched the numbers and pulled a list some of the most interesting spots around the United States. There are lists of the best places to get a job, retire, ski, golf and fall in love, best places lists for almost everything. We think any best place worth traveling to should have one quality above others: culture. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/iWWZD>

12. A RESPONSIBLE PRESS OFFICE IN THE DIGITAL AGE (IIP Digital, April 2012)



A Responsible Press Office: An Insider's Guide explores the relationship between government officials and the modern news media. A Responsible Press Office in the Digital Age provides guidance to government communicators

about how to use social and digital media to provide the public with accurate and timely information concerning public policies, laws, programs and actions. Full text is available at <http://goo.gl/lm5A6>

13. THE RISE OF E-READING (Pew Research Center, April 14, 2012)

As the number of Americans that own tablet computers and e-book reading devices has increased, so has the percentage of adults who report that they have read an e-book in the past year. Full report is available at <http://goo.gl/nvX2L>

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